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DC MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

Child and Family Services Agency
**Grandparent Caregivers Program
and Close Relative Caregivers Program**
Annual Status Report 2021

Submitted to the Council of the District of Columbia
February 28, 2022



Child and Family Services Agency
200 I Street SE, Washington, DC 20003 • (202) 442-6100
www.cfsa.dc.gov • www.fosterdckids.org

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Grandparent Caregivers Program

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Chapter 1: GCP Introduction and Program Profile

This is the 15th annual report for the Grandparent Caregivers Program (GCP), established by the District of Columbia under the Grandparent Caregivers Pilot Program Establishment Act of 2005 (D.C. Law 16–69; D.C. Official Code § 4–251.02 *et seq.*). The Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Support Act of 2009 transitioned the program from pilot status, creating a permanent Grandparent Caregivers Program. Since the program’s inception in March 2006, the D.C. Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) has served as the program administrator. The Establishment Act requires that the annual report include recommendations for program improvement (page 10) and statistics covering annual data and information from the program (page 11).

In 2015, CFSA drafted legislation to create a subsidy for caregivers whose ability to provide care to children is compromised by failing mental and/or physical health, or a death in the family. Under the Grandparent Caregivers Program Relative Subsidy Transfer Amendment Act of 2015 (D.C. Law 21–40; D.C. Official Code § 4–251.03a), CFSA may transfer a subsidy to a relative caregiver who is not a grandparent or great aunt or uncle. This change allows children to remain safely in the care of relatives and mitigates their risk of entry into foster care.

Program Profile

The GCP provides a monthly subsidy for eligible District residents raising their grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great nieces, or great nephews. Absent this subsidy, caregivers are at risk of lacking the financial resources to care for the children in their care, and the likelihood of the children needing to enter the foster care system would be significantly increased as a result. For families where income is limited, this subsidy has been able to supplement and empower them to provide basic needs. In calendar year (CY) 2021, the Grandparent Caregivers Program served 843 children, with a monthly average of 769 children (491 families) served.

	CY2019	CY2020	CY2021
Program funding (subsidy portion)	\$5.8M	\$5.8M ¹	\$6.6M ²
New applications received (from families)	119	64	42
New subsidies awarded (to children)	98	33	62
Reapplications received ³	10	2	2
Reapplication subsidies awarded (to children)	14	0	3
Children receiving both GCP and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) at End of Year	654	633	612
Total number of children who received subsidy in the calendar year	905	844	843
Denials due to ineligibility	5	2	2
Denials due to funding (applications on the waiting list at End of Year)	54 ⁴	68 ⁵	0
Subsidies transferred to new caregivers	2	0	0
Subsidies terminated by program or caregiver	82 ⁶	59 ⁷	81 ⁸
Substantiated instances of fraud	0	0	0
Children removed from household while receiving subsidy	0	0	0
Monthly average of children (families) served	806 (516)	801 (510)	769 (491)

¹ In FY 2020, an additional \$600k was added to the budget to enroll new families on the waitlist.

² In FY 2021, an additional \$800k was added to the budget to enroll new families on the waitlist.

³ These families were terminated from the program, but later were re-enrolled into the program

⁴ Reflects number of families on waitlist at year’s end.

⁵ Reflects number of families on waitlist at year’s end. This number includes those that both have and have not submitted applications.

⁶ Reflects youth aging out, provider’s request to be removed, and providers who no longer qualified for the program.

⁷ Reflects youth aging out, provider’s request to be removed, and providers who no longer qualified for the program.

⁸ Reflects youth aging out, provider’s request to be removed, and providers who no longer qualified for the program.

Chapter 2: GCP Program Achievements

Achieved Performance Indicator

In 2012, CFSA established a strategic agenda known as the Four Pillars⁹. It is a bold, strategic agenda to improve outcomes for children, youth, and families at every step of their involvement with the District's child welfare agency. Each pillar highlights a values-based foundation, a set of evidence-based strategies, and a series of specific outcomes and targets. The Four Pillars include: (1) Narrowing the Front Door, (2) Temporary Safe Haven, (3) Well Being, and (4) Exit to Permanence.

The GCP is a valuable component of the Four Pillars strategy as it fits pillar one in narrowing the front door by providing families the support they need to prevent children from entering foster care, as Table 2 illustrates.

Performance Indicator	2021 Target	2021 Actual
Children receiving GCP services will not enter out of home placement.	95%	100%

Client Testimonial

The GCP has made a significant impact on the lives of many District families. Several program participants offered positive feedback this year expressing their gratitude for the program. Below is one testimonial on the importance of the program:

“When my grandson was going to school at Kimball Elementary, it was a counselor who came to me and told me about the Grandparents Program. She knew that I was having financial problems with raising him and making sure he had all he needed for school. So I made an appointment and went to the grandparent program where I met the staff. They helped me with my financial problems and my housing arrangement. My grandson and I were living with my mom and it was not a healthy environment for us. But without the help of the entire Grandparent Program, I did not know how I was going to do it. Thank god for this organization. My grandson is now 17 years old and is an A student and getting ready to go to college at North Carolina A&T. May God continue to bless them and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.”

- Grandmother of one child

⁹ **Front Door:** Children deserve to grow up with their families and should be removed from their birth homes only as the last resort. Child welfare gets involved only when families cannot or will not take care of children themselves. When we must remove a child for safety, we seek to place with relatives first.

Temporary Safe Haven: Foster care is a good interim place for children to live while we work to get them back to a permanent home as quickly as possible. Planning for a safe exit begins as soon as a child enters the system.

Well Being: Every child has a right to a nurturing environment that supports healthy growth and development, good physical and mental health, and academic achievement. Institutions don't make good parents. But when we must bring children into care for their safety, we give them excellent support.

Exit to Permanence: Every child and youth exits foster care as quickly as possible for a safe, well-supported family environment or life-long connection. Older youth have the skills they need to succeed as adults.

COVID-19 Response

During the COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health emergency, the six-month continuous residency eligibility requirement was waived for the GCP and Close Relative Caregiver Program (CRCP). During this period many people lost employment, food availability was low and rent/mortgage became increasingly hard to maintain. This requirement was waived to ensure that grandparent and close relative caregivers were not cut off from the program and financial assistance it provides during the pandemic. This change has been submitted as an amendment to the legislation and is currently being reviewed by the Council of the District of Columbia.

The GCP adjusted to the challenges presented by the public health emergency and has continued to have a positive impact on families.

Chapter 3: GCP Report

1) Applications Filed¹⁰

In CY 2021, the GCP received 42 new applications on behalf of 60 children. Of the 42 applications, two were reapplications on behalf of three additional children.

2) Subsidies Awarded

CFSA approved all 42 new applications in CY 2021, resulting in 62 new children enrolled in the GCP.¹¹

A full subsidy payment (without offsets) is \$24.79 per day for children younger than age 12 and \$27.92 per day for children older than 12.¹² During CY 2021, a participant in the GCP could expect to receive an average daily rate of \$20.03 per child, or an average 30-day month rate of \$610 per child. This is consistent with the 2012 average rates and up from the 2011 average daily rate of \$14.96 per child, or an average 30-day month rate of \$448.80 per child.¹³ The current average number of children per family participating in the program is two, and the average age of children currently in the program is 10.

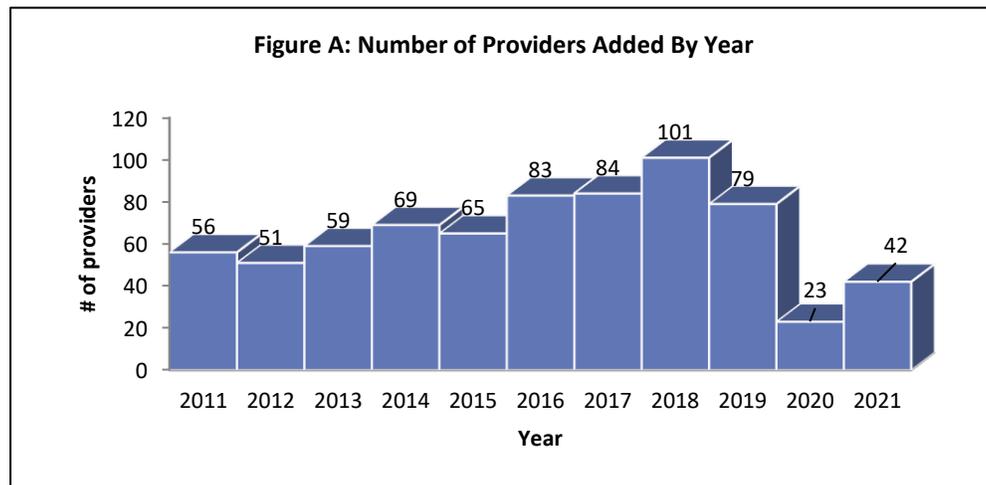
¹⁰ Potential applicants can receive an application by calling the program directly or downloading the application from the CFSA website (www.cfsa.dc.gov). CFSA has also provided application information to community partners so they can inform prospective caregivers about the program. Applications filed are not the equivalent to a completed and/or approved application.

¹¹Number approved was based on available funding.

¹²Caregivers not receiving other government subsidies for the child such as TANF and SSI benefits.

¹³The rate has remained the same since 2012.

Figure A illustrates that 42 new providers/caregivers began receiving the GCP subsidy in CY 2021. The most reported reason for enrollment was that kin were either incarcerated or unfit to care for their child due to substance abuse and mental illness.



3) Families Receiving the GCP Subsidy, TANF, and SSI

Of the 843 children receiving a GCP subsidy in CY 2021, 612 (73%) also received Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). This percentage decreased by 3% compared to CY 2020. In addition, 35 children (4%) received Supplemental Security Income (SSI), which decreased by 1% from the previous year. Under the Grandparent Caregivers Pilot Program Establishment Act of 2005, the program offsets GCP subsidy amounts for these two groups of children by the amount they received in TANF or SSI. However, there were 25 children (3%) who received Social Security survivor benefits from a deceased parent who received a full GCP subsidy.

4) Denials Due to Ineligibility

CFSA deemed only two applicants ineligible in CY 2021. The two applicants were deemed ineligible due to exceeding program income requirements.

5) Waitlisted Due to Lack of Appropriated Funding

The GCP has a fixed budget and serves applicants on a first come, first serve basis based on budget availability annually. CFSA reallocated funds and did not have any potential recipients waitlisted in CY 2021¹⁴.

¹⁴ CFSA had a waitlist that carried over from CY2020, additional funds were identified, and families were enrolled.

5a) Subsidies Transferred to a Relative Caregiver

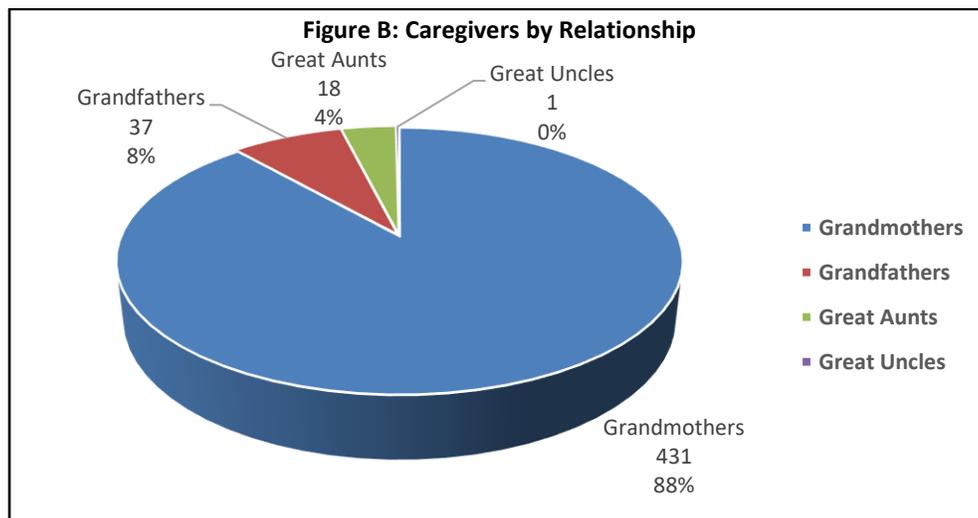
In 2021, CFSA did not transfer any subsidies to a relative caregiver.

6) Estimated Eligible Caretakers and Estimated Grandparents Acting as Caregivers

According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s Kids Count Data Center, in 2019, 7,000 District children younger than age 18 were living in grandparent-led households and an additional 9,000 were living in households led by a relative caregiver. Studies show that children in relative care have more stability and are more likely to maintain connections with siblings, preserve their cultural heritage, and maintain community bonds when compared to children in non-relative care.¹⁵ The Kids Count Data Center does not report on how many of these 16,000 District children live in households that have incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level.

6a) Demographics

Figure B shows families participating in the GCP have four primary caregiver types: grandmothers, grandfathers, great aunts, and great uncles. The majority of heads of household are grandmothers, comprising 431 (88%) out of a total of 489 caregivers.



¹⁵ “Time for Reform: Support Relatives in Providing Foster Care and Permanent Families for Children.” Kids Are Waiting: Fix Foster Care Now and Generations United, Washington, DC. 2007 and Conway, Tiffany and Rutledge Q. Hudson. “Is Kinship Care Good for Kids?” Center for Law and Social Policy, Washington, DC. 2007.

Figure C shows that currently, Wards 7 and 8 represent the largest percentage of families participating in the GCP. Ward 7 is home to 170 families (35%), while Ward 8 has 206 families (42%). The total number of caregivers across all Wards is 489.

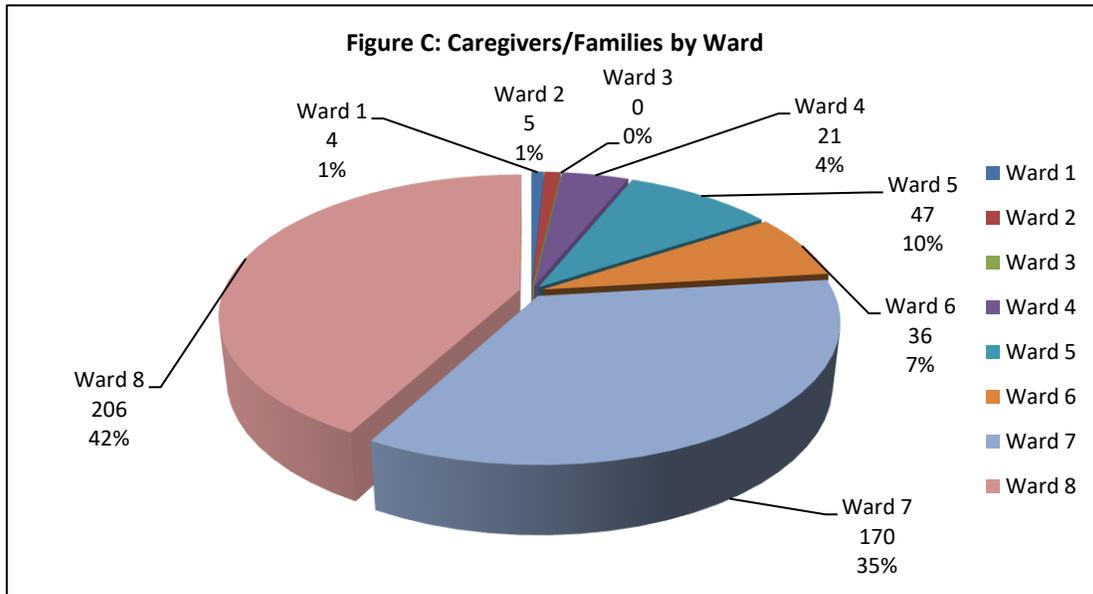
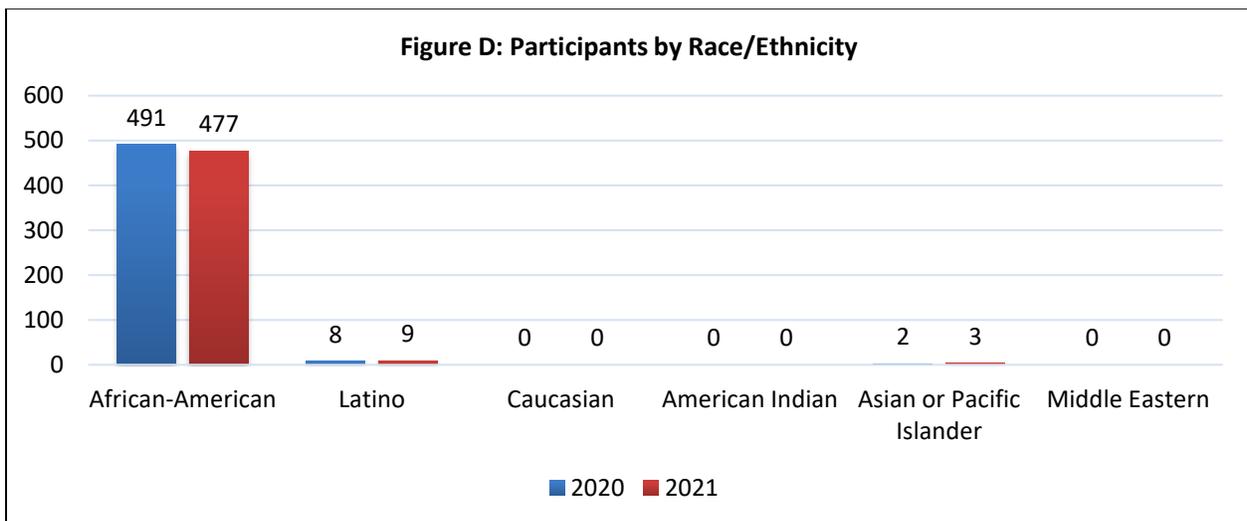
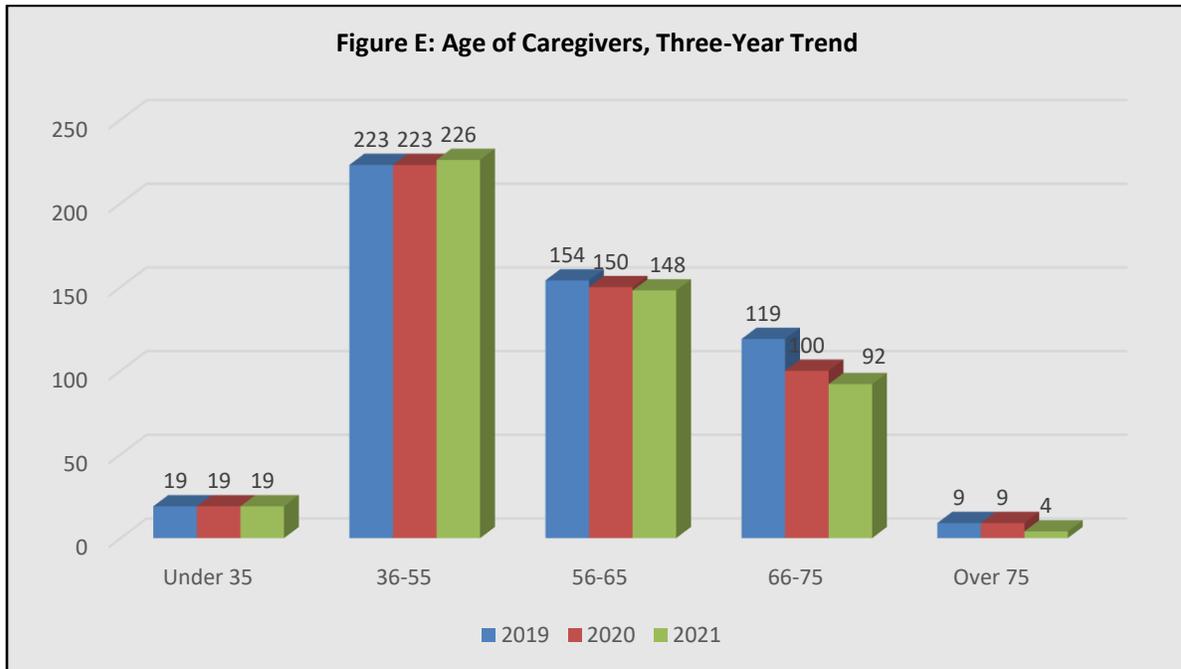


Figure D shows the majority of households in the Grandparent Caregivers Program are African-American families, with a small percentage of Latino and Asian or Pacific Islander families also enrolled. The number of caregivers for both Latino and Asian or Pacific Islander families increased by one from CY 2020.



Caregivers in the program vary significantly in age. Figure E shows that the majority of the caregivers are age 65 and under. Of the 489 caregivers, 245 (50%) are 55 years old and younger. The median age of caregivers in the Grandparent Caregivers Program for CY 2021 was 49. This was consistent with the median age range for CY 2020. This could be attributed to the steady increase of caregivers between ages 36-55 in CY 2021.



7) Terminations and Aging Out

Termination statistics are based on individual children, as the circumstances of one child may change and result in termination without impacting other children in the household. Of the 81 children who exited the program during CY 2021, 59 aged out due to reaching the age of 18. CFSA discontinued subsidies to the remaining 22 children for one of the reasons listed below:

- Death of caregiver.¹⁶
 - Another person assumed care and did not meet eligibility criteria.
- Caregiver failed to recertify.
- The caregiver's household income increased, exceeding eligibility requirements.
- Birth parent moved back into the home and the family did not qualify for an exception as outlined in the D.C. Code.

In CY 2021, no Fair Hearing appeal requests were submitted due to termination of a subsidy.

¹⁶The death of the caregiver resulted in one child entering the care of a relative who resided outside the District, and therefore did not meet eligibility criteria.

8) Substantiated Instances of Fraud

In CY 2021, there were no instances of fraud.

9) Children Removed from Households while Receiving Subsidy

In CY 2021, there were no children removed while receiving a subsidy.

10) Recommendations for Program Improvement

Throughout the public health emergency, CFSA has continued to provide the critical, high-quality services that our children and families deserve. The GCP was no exception and the following program improvements were made to ensure continuity of service and are recommended to be made permanent in order to continue to improve the program:

- Continue to conduct focus groups with community partners and caregivers to enhance how we engage and serve families.
- Conducted surveys for inquiring about the needs for support groups.
 - Responses showed a great interested in the creation of support groups. CFSA is partnering with Foster & Adoptive Parent Advocacy Center (FAPAC) to launch them in CY22.
- The program partnered with Martha’s Table to establish an educational enrichment opportunity for caregivers to enhance parenting skills. This program is scheduled to launch in CY22.
- Passage of legislative amendments that would remove the eligibility requirement for a child to reside in the grandparent’s home for the previous six months or that the grandparent has been the child’s primary caregiver for the previous six months.
 - The program also submitted for review a proposal to no longer disqualify a grandparent if the child’s adult parent resides with the grandparent and the parent has a verifiable medical disability.

CFSA is currently in the process of developing an online platform and mobile app to allow District residents to more easily access information about the programs offered.

Chapter 4: GCP Population & Subsidy Overview

Table 3 breaks out all relevant data points to the GCP by month in CY 2021.

Statistics	Table 3: Grandparent Caregivers Monthly Data												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	2021 Totals
New Applications	5	3	3	1	3	4	2	4	3	4	2	8	42
New Applications (# of Children)	9	6	5	1	3	5	3	5	6	6	2	9	60
# of Approved Applications	0	0	0	0	15	2	12	5	0	7	0	1	42
# of Children Approved	0	0	0	0	18	3	20	10	0	13	0	1	65
# of Denied Applications	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
# of Terminations	0	1	3	0	3	4	4	0	1	4	2	0	22
# of Age-outs	4	4	3	2	12	8	8	6	5	5	2	0	59
# of Appeals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# Waitlisted Due To Funding	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Average Processing Time	n/a	n/a	30 Days	30 Days	30 Days	30 Days	30 Days	30 Days ¹⁷					
# of Providers Receiving Subsidy	494	491	489	487	494	491	497	498	492	486	485	489	491 ¹⁸
# of Children Receiving Subsidy	776	772	796	764	771	764	776	775	764	755	752	762	769 ¹⁹
Total Subsidy Amount Paid	\$486,420.17	\$ 436,931.69	\$481,022.90	\$461,392.32	\$488,396.14	\$460,171.80	\$487,946.94	\$ 484,460.43	\$461,948.57	\$471,001.97	\$454,301.87	\$454,301.87	\$5,628,296.67

The Grandparent Caregivers Program continues to provide support to families and serves as a tool that helps children avoid entering the foster care system. Studies have shown the benefits of children staying with family, with the majority of caregivers who responded to the CFSA survey of the program noting that they would not be able to care for their kin if it were not for the GCP subsidy. Every dollar spent on GPC goes towards preventing more children from falling into the foster care system. This program is incredibly effective with its funding allocation, using every dollar given to prevent further spending by CFSA with more entries into the foster care system. The increasing number of children and caregivers applying for GPC demonstrate this program is a necessary safeguard that prevents entry into the child welfare system by building family and community resiliency.

¹⁷ Numbers based on a 12 month average.

¹⁸ Numbers based on a 12 month average.

¹⁹ Numbers based on a 12 month average.

Close Relative Caregivers Program

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Chapter 5: CRCP Introduction and Program Profile

This is the second annual report for the Close Relative Caregivers Program (CRCP), established by the District of Columbia under the Close Relative Caregivers Pilot Program Establishment Act of 2019 (D.C. Law 23-0032; D.C Official Code § 4–251.22 *et seq.*). This subsidy program was created to address the growing needs of relative caregivers that do not meet the eligibility requirement for the Grandparent Caregivers Program.²⁰ Since the program’s inception in October 2019, the D.C. Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) has served as program administrator. The Establishment Act requires that the annual report include recommendations for program improvement (page 19) and statistics covering annual data and information from the program (page 11).

In 2015, CFSA drafted legislation to create a subsidy for caregivers whose ability to provide care to children is compromised by failing mental and/or physical health, or a death in the family. Under the Grandparent Caregivers Program Relative Subsidy Transfer Amendment Act of 2015 (D.C. Law 21–40; D.C. Official Code § 4–251.03a), CFSA may transfer a subsidy to a relative caregiver who is not a grandparent or great aunt or uncle. This change allows children to remain safely in the care of relatives and mitigates their risk of entry into foster care.

Program Profile

The CRCP provides a monthly subsidy for eligible District residents raising their brother, sister, nephew, niece, or cousin. Absent this subsidy, caregivers might lack the financial resources to provide care, putting the child at risk of entering the foster care system. In calendar year (CY) 2021, the program served 60 children, with a monthly average of 37 children (27 families) served.

Table 4: CRCP Statistics	CY2020	CY2021
Program funding (subsidy portion)	\$394,408	\$401,310
New applications received (from families)	16	18
New subsidies awarded (to children)	11	20
Reapplications received (from existing families)	0	1
Reapplication subsidies awarded (to children)	0	2
Children receiving both GCP and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) at End of Year	22	28
Total number of children who received subsidy in the calendar year	28	60
Denials due to ineligibility	2	0
Denials due to funding (applications on the waiting list at End of Year)	0 ²¹	0
Subsidies transferred to caregivers	0	0
Subsidies terminated by program or caregiver ²²	4	9
Substantiated instances of fraud	0	0
Children removed from household while receiving subsidy	0	0
Monthly average of children (families) served	16 (23)	37 (27)

²⁰ Established by the Grandparent Caregivers Pilot Program Establishment Act of 2005 (D.C. law 16-69; D.C. Official Code § 4–251.02 *et seq.*)

²¹ Reflects number of families on waitlist at year’s end.

²² Reflects youth aging out, provider’s request to be removed, and providers who no longer qualified for the program.

Chapter 6: CRCP Achievements

Achieved Performance Indicator

The CRCP is a valuable component of the Four Pillars strategy that provides families the support they need to prevent children from entering foster care as Table 5 illustrates.

Table 5: Families Assisted to Stay Together, Preventing Foster Care		
Performance Indicator	2021 Target	2021 Actual
Children receiving CRCP services will not enter out of home placement.	95%	100%

Client Testimonial

The CRCP has made a significant impact in the lives of many District families. Several program participants offered positive feedback this year expressing their gratitude for the program. Below is one testimonial on the importance of the program:

“It has been a great experience for my family and I taken care of my love one. Being able to get out and experience different families going through the same thing as we are, this program really helps in many different ways. And it has been a good source of resource helping us with different things and I truly would like to say thank you from the bottom of my heart from my family we appreciate you all. Thank You.”

- Sister of two siblings

COVID-19 Response

During the COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health emergency, the six-month continuous residency eligibility requirement was waived for the GCP and Close Relative Caregiver Program (CRCP). During this period many people lost employment, food availability was low and rent/mortgage became increasingly hard to maintain. This requirement was waived to ensure that grandparent and close relative caregivers were not cut off from the program and financial assistance it provides during the pandemic. This change has been submitted as an amendment to the legislation and is currently being reviewed by the Council of the District of Columbia.

The CRCP adjusted to the challenges presented by the public health emergency and has continued to have a positive impact on families.

Chapter 7: CRCP Report

1) Applications Filed²³

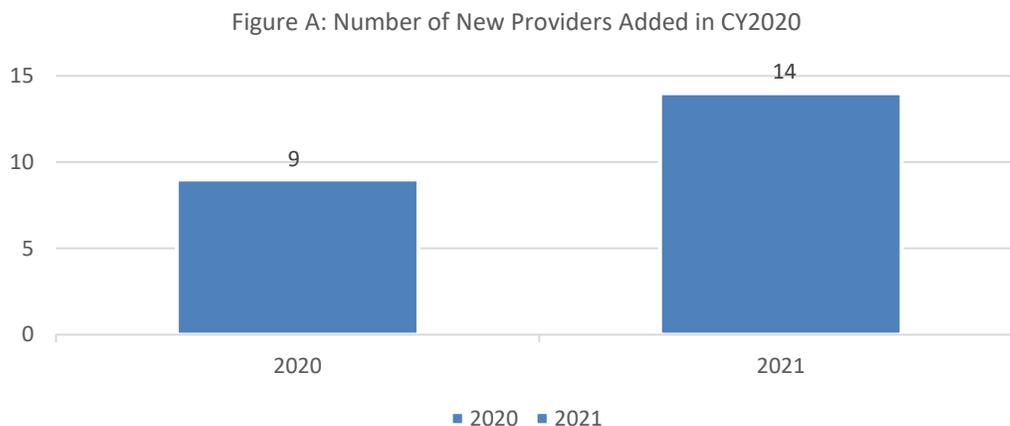
In CY 2021, the CRCP received 18 new applications on behalf of 23 children.

2) Subsidies Awarded

Of the 18 new applications²⁴ in CY 2021, CFSA approved 14²⁵, resulting in 20 new children enrolled in CRCP in 2021.

A full subsidy payment (without offsets²⁶) is \$24.79 per day for children younger than age 12 and \$27.92 per day for children 12 and over. During 2021, a participant in the CRCP could expect to receive an average daily rate of \$23.26 per child, or an average 30-day month rate of \$697.81 per child. The current average number of children per family participating in the program is two, and the average age of children currently in the program is 14.

Figure A illustrates that 14 new providers/caregivers began receiving the CRCP subsidy in 2021, an increase of 5 from the program's first year. The most reported reason for enrollment was that kin were either incarcerated or unfit to care for their child due to substance abuse and mental illness.



²³ Potential applicants can receive an application by calling the program directly or downloading the application from the CFSA website (www.cfsa.dc.gov). CFSA has also provided application information to community partners so they can inform prospective caregivers about the program. Applications filed are not the equivalent to a completed and/or approved application.

²⁴ One application equals one family.

²⁵ Number approved were based on available funding. Additional applicants were deemed eligible.

²⁶Caregivers not receiving other government subsidies for the child such as TANF and SSI benefits.

3) Families Receiving the CRCP Subsidy, TANF, and SSI

Of the 60 children receiving a CRCP subsidy in CY 2021, 28 (47%) also received Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). In addition, four children (7%) received Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Under the Close Relative Caregivers Pilot Program Establishment Act of 2019, the program offsets CRCP subsidy amounts for these two groups of children by the amount they received in TANF or SSI.

4) Denials Due to Ineligibility

In 2021, CFSA did not deny any applicants due to ineligibility.

5) Waitlisted Due to Lack of Appropriated Funding

In 2021, CFSA had no waitlist due to lack of funding.

5a) Subsidies Transferred to a Relative Caregiver

In 2021, CFSA did not transfer any subsidies to a relative caregiver.

6) Estimated Eligible Caretakers and Estimated Grandparents Acting as Caregivers

According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Kids Count Data Center, in 2019, 9,000 District children younger than age 18 were living in households led by a relative caregiver and an additional 7,000 were living in grandparent-led households. Studies show that children in relative care have more stability and are more likely to maintain connections with siblings, preserve their cultural heritage, and maintain community bonds when compared to children in non-relative care.²⁷ The KidsCount Data Center does not report on how many of these 16,000 District children live in households that have incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level.

²⁷ "Time for Reform: Support Relatives in Providing Foster Care and Permanent Families for Children." Kids Are Waiting: Fix Foster Care Now and Generations United, Washington, DC. 2007 and Conway, Tiffany and Rutledge Q. Hudson. "Is Kinship Care Good for Kids?" Center for Law and Social Policy, Washington, DC. 2007.

6a) Demographics

Figure B shows families participating in the CRCP have four primary caregiver types: sibling, aunt, uncle and cousin. The majority of heads of household are siblings, comprising 12 (39%) out of a total of 31 caregivers.

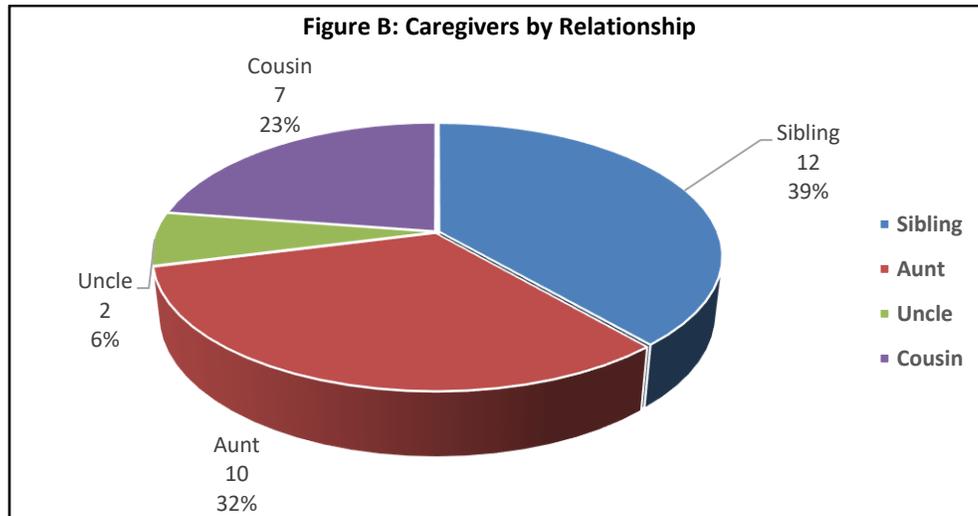


Figure C shows that currently, Wards 7 and 8 represent the largest percentage of families participating in the CRCP. Ward 7 is home to 12 families (39%), while Ward 8 has 10 families (32%). The total number of caregivers across all Wards is 31.

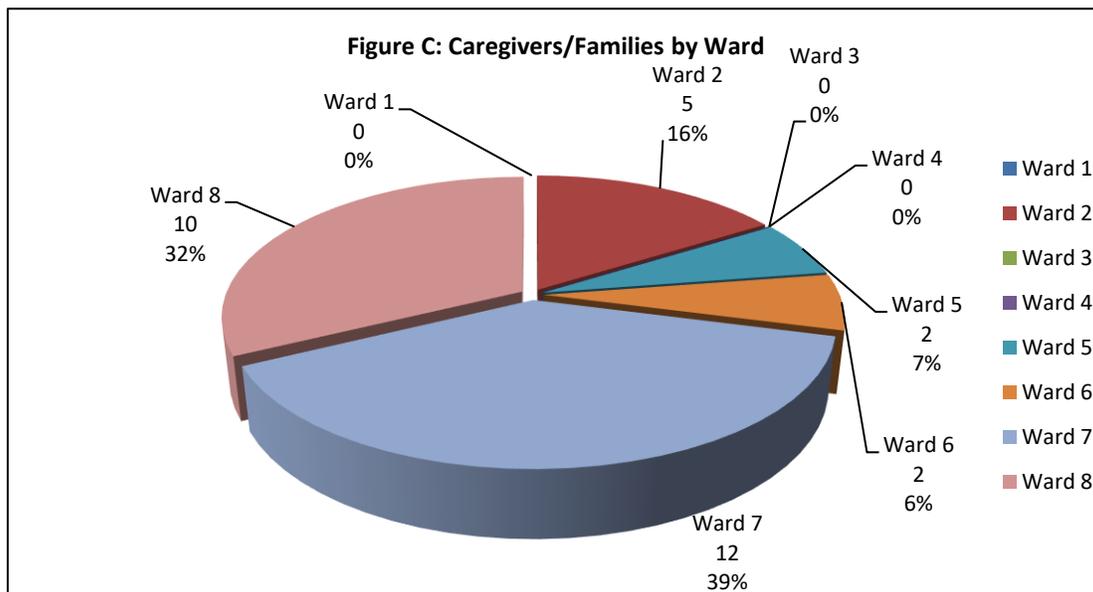


Figure D shows that all households in the CRCP are African-American families.

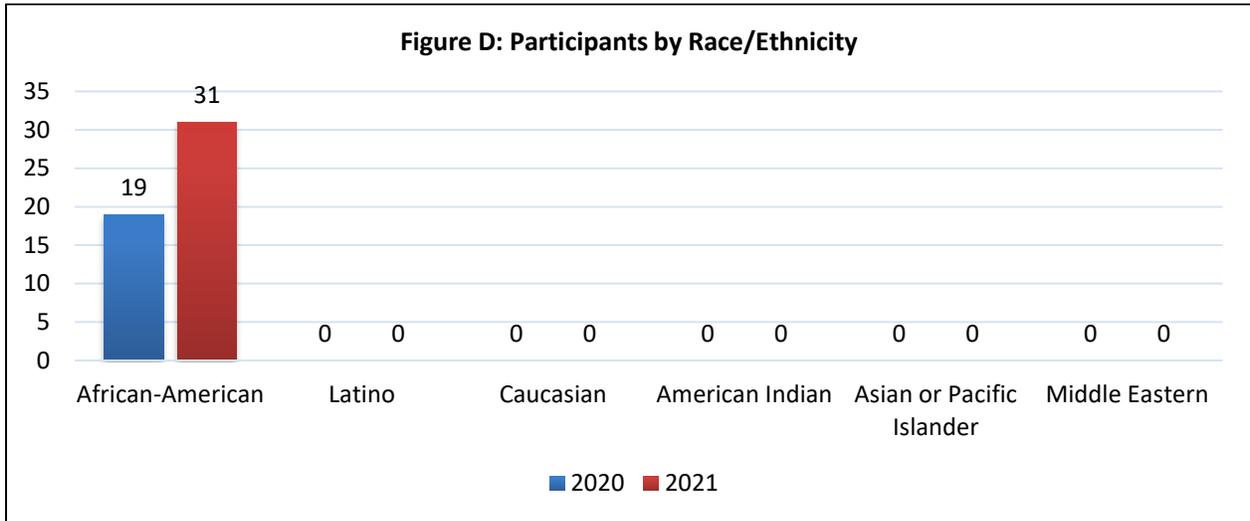
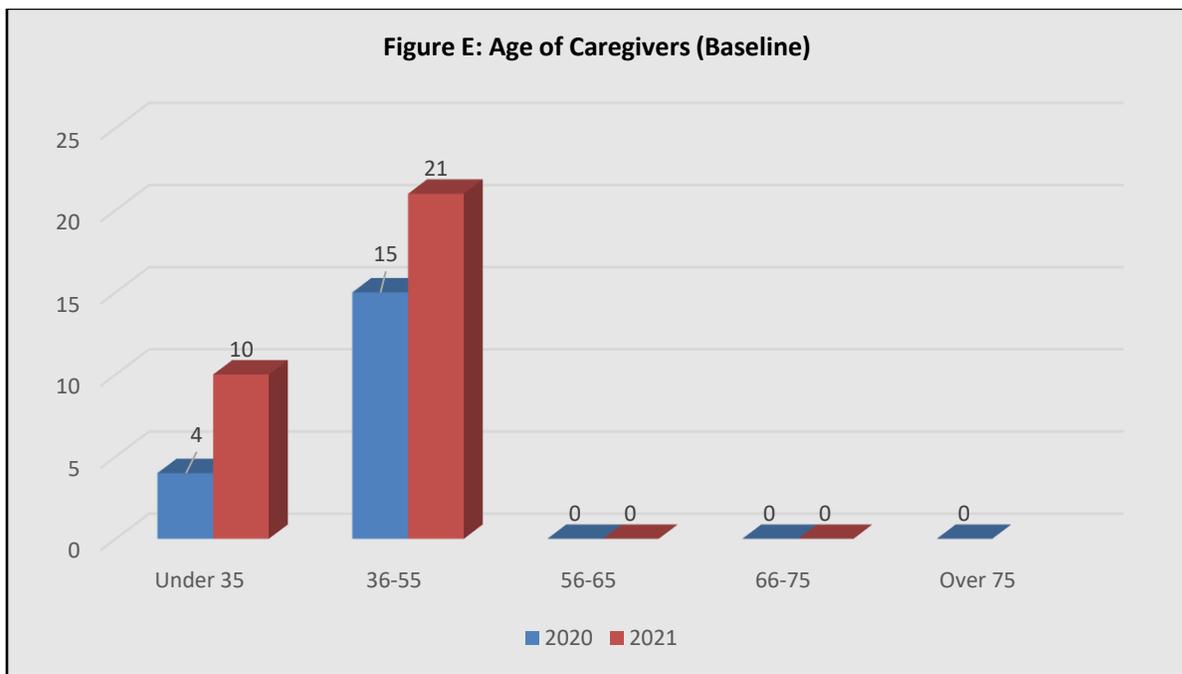


Figure E shows that all caregivers are age 55 and under. 31 total caregivers – 21/31 ages 36-55 (68%) and 10/31 ages 35 and under (32%).



7) Terminations and Aging Out

Termination statistics are based on individual children, as the circumstances of one child may change and result in termination without impacting other children in the household. Nine children exited the CRCP in CY 2021. Of the nine children, two aged out due to reaching age 18. CFSA discontinued subsidies to the remaining seven children because the biological parent regained custody.

In CY 2021, no Fair Hearing appeal requests were submitted due to termination of a subsidy.

8) Substantiated Instances of Fraud

In CY 2021, there were no instances of fraud.

9) Children Removed from Households while Receiving Subsidy

In CY 2021 there were no children removed while receiving a subsidy.

10) Recommendations for Program Improvement

- Through the Kinship Navigator Program, we established a Kinship Program Advisory Committee (KinPAC). The recommendation is to identify more caregivers to become members of the committee.
- Continue to conduct focus groups with community partners and caregivers to enhance how we engage and serve families.
- Conduct more surveys inquiring about the needs for support groups.
 - Responses showed a great interest in the creation of support groups. CFSA is partnering with Foster & Adoptive Parent Advocacy Center (FAPAC) to launch them in CY 2022.
- The program partnered with Martha's Table to establish an educational enrichment opportunity for caregivers to enhance parenting skills. This program is scheduled to launch in CY22.
- Passage of legislative amendments that would remove the eligibility requirement for a child to reside in the relative's home for the previous six months or that the relative has been the child's primary caregiver for the previous six months.
 - The program also submitted for review a proposal to no longer disqualify a relative if the child's adult parent resides with the relative and the parent has a verifiable medical disability.

CFSA is currently in the process of developing an online platform and mobile app to allow District residents to more easily access information about the programs offered.

Chapter 8: CRCP Population & Subsidy Overview

Table 6 breaks out all relevant data points to the CRCP by month in CY 2021.

Statistics	Table 6: Close Relative Caregivers Monthly Data												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	2020 Totals
New Applications	4	4	1	0	1	1	0	1	3	1	2	1	19
New Applications (# of Children)	7	4	2	0	1	2	0	1	5	2	2	1	27
# of Approved Applications	2	0	3	0	0	4	1	1	0	3	0	1	15
# of Children Approved	2	0	3	0	0	6	3	1	0	5	0	2	22
# of Denied Applications	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# of Terminations	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	3	0	0	7
# of Age-outs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
# of Appeals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# Waitlisted Due To Funding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Average Processing Time	30 Days	30 Days	30 Days	30 Days	30 Days	30 Days	30 Days	30 Days	30 Days	30 Days	30 Days	30 Days	30 days ²⁸
22# of Providers Receiving Subsidy	22	22	22	25	25	29	29	30	30	29	29	31	27 ²⁹
# of Children Receiving Subsidy	28	27	27	30	30	36	38	38	50	45	45	51	37 ³⁰
Total Subsidy Amount Paid	\$17,314.73	\$16,198.28	\$18,186.45	\$18,397.44	\$18,912.79	\$24,749.40	\$30,618.39	\$37,100.46	\$31,935.06	\$29,582.37	\$28,659.40	\$38,870.80	\$310,525.57

The CRCP continues to provide support to families and serves as a tool that helps children avoid entering the foster care system. Studies have shown the benefits of children staying with family, with the majority of caregivers who responded to the CFSA survey of the program noting that they would not be able to care for their kin if it were not for the CRCP subsidy. Every dollar spent on CRCP goes towards preventing more children from falling into the foster care system. This program is incredibly effective with its funding allocation, using every dollar given to prevent further spending by CFSA with more entries into the foster care system. The increasing number of children and caregivers applying for CRCP, even as a very new program, demonstrate this is a necessary safeguard that prevents entry into the child welfare system by building family and community resiliency.

²⁸ Numbers based on a 12 month average.

²⁹ Numbers based on a 12 month average.

³⁰ Numbers based on a 12 month average.